

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00

COA-01 L-02 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9186

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

/USMISSION USUN 494

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USOECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS PLOS NO

SUBJ: STATUS OF NORWAY'S CONTIGUOUS TRAWL FREE ZONE PROPOSAL

REF: OSLO 5335, DECEMBER 9, 1974

SUMMARY: AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN THE NEAFC LAST WEEK ON
QUOTAS FOR ARCTIC COD, AND THE SOVIETS HAVE ACCEPTED
NORWAY'S LATEST TRAWL FREE ZONE PROPOSAL, SUBJECT TO
ACCEPTANCE BY OTHER PRINCIPALLY AFFECTED NATIONS. NORWAY
HOPES TO OBTAIN THIS ACCEPTANCE AT A MEETING ON JANUARY 21
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WITH THE U.K., WEST GERMANY, AND FRANCE WHO ARE NOW

COORDINATING THEIR POSITIONS. THE AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE BASED ON A COUNTERPROPOSAL GIVEN NORWAY BY THE U.K., ON JANUARY 8 WHICH PROVIDES FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN THE ANNUAL DURATION AND THE EXTENT OF THE ZONES. IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED THE ZONES WILL PROBABLY BE SET UP JANUARY 27. END SUMMARY.

1. JENS EVENSEN, NORWAY'S LAW OF THE SEA MINISTER, HAS CONDUCTED INTENSIVE TALKS SINCE NEW YEAR WITH THE U.K., WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, USSR, AND EEC COMMISSION ON NORWAY'S TRAWL FREE ZONE PROPOSALS. THE BRITISH, WEST GERMANS, AND FRENCH ARE NOW COORDINATING THEIR POSITIONS, AND ON JANUARY 8 THE U.K. GAVE EVENSEN ON BEHALF OF THE THREE COUNTRIES A COUNTER-PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD FURTHER MODIFY THE LATEST NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN PARA. 5 OF REFTEL. A SLIVER WOULD BE CUT FROM THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE HJELMSVEYBANKEN ZONE, THE JENNEGGA-MALANGSGRUNNEN BANK ZONE WOULD ONLY BE KEPT TRAWL FREE FROM DECEMBER 15 (NOVEMBER 15 FOR JENNEGGA-MALANGSGRUNNEN) UNTIL MARCH 15.

2. EVENSEN IS BEING CRITICIZED FOR MISLEADING PARLIAMENT ON THE EASE WITH WHICH HIS TRAWL FREE ZONES COULD BE NEGOTIATED AND FOR NOT GOING FOR A 50-MILE LIMIT RIGHT AWAY. HE HOPES TO NEGOTIATE IN A MEETING WITH THE U.K., WEST GERMANY, AND FRANCE IN LONDON ON JANUARY 21 A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL RESTORE HALF THE REDUCTIONS IN AREA AND DURATION PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH. IF SO, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ZONES ON JANUARY 27 WILL BE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY. THE BRITISH, WHO HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE MATTER, HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOUNDED OUT, AND EVENSEN IS OPTIMISTIC AN AGREEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT.

3. ON JANUARY 13 SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV AND EVENSEN ANNOUNCED IN MOSCOW SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF NORWAY'S TRAWL FREE ZONES AS DESCRIBED IN PARA. 5 OF REFTEL, SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON THEM BETWEEN NORWAY, THE U.K., WEST GERMANY, AND FRANCE. EVENSEN HAS TRIED TO AVOID ANY INFERENCE THAT HE

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IS PITTING EAST AGAINST WEST AND CLAIMS THAT HE WENT TO MOSCOW UNEXPECTEDLY BECAUSE ISHKOV WAS GOING TO BE OUT OF TOWN FOR A MONTH. NONETHELESS, IT DOES PUT PRESSURE ON THE WESTERN AFFECTED NATIONS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE PROPOSAL THE USSR IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IS MORE FAVORABLE TO NORWAY THAN WHAT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE INDICATED WAS ACCEPTABLE.

4. ON JANUARY 15 THE NEAFC ANNOUNCED AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT ON A ONE-YEAR 810,000 TON QUOTA FOR ARCTIC COD TO ENTER INTO EFFECT FEBRUARY 12. SUB-QUOTAS ARE: NORWAY AND THE USSR - 305,000 TONS; U.K. 98,000 TONS; THIRD COUNTRIES 102,000 TONS. NORWAY CAN ALSO CATCH 40,000 TONS OR MORE USING STATIONARY GEAR. THE AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH PROVIDING FOR A LARGER OVERALL QUOTA THAN NORWAY DESIRED AND GIVING THE USSR AND THIRD COUNTRIES INCREASED QUOTA SHARES, WAS A NECESSARY ADJUNCT TO ANY AGREEMENT ON TRAWL FREE ZONES.

5. A COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THE EEC COMMISSION WHICH INSISTS THE ZONES BE NEGOTIATED WITH IT UNDER THREAT OF MODIFICATION OF THE EEC FISHERIES LETTER WITH NORWAY WHICH GIVES FISH IMPORTS FROM NORWAY TARIFF PREFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION HAS NOT STATED WHAT IT WANTS, THE NORWEGIANS BELIEVE THE DANES AND THE DUTCH ARE BEHIND ITS DEMAND AND ARE CONCERNED THAT NORWAY'S TRAWL FREE ZONES WILL LEAD TO INCREASED FISHING IN THEIR CUSTOMARY FISHING AREAS. HOWEVER, THE BRITISH HAVE TOLD THE NORWEGIANS THAT, IF NORWAY AND THE U.K. AGREE ON THE ZONES, THEY WILL OPPOSE ANY MODIFICATION IN THE FISHERIES LETTER. THIS WOULD EFFECTIVELY BLOCK THE EEC SINCE EEC ACTIONS REQUIRE UNANIMITY. NORWAY WILL DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE COMMISSION ON JANUARY 24. THIS WOULD BE BEFORE THE ZONES ARE ESTABLISHED ON JANUARY 27, IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN LONDON JANUARY 21, BUT AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENT. THE NORWEGIANS DO NOT FEEL THEY CAN DELAY MATTERS FURTHER TO ACCOMMODATE THE COMMISSION.

6. AS A RESULT OF WESTERN EUROPEAN OPPOSITION (THE SOVIETS HAD NO SIMILAR PROBLEMS), NORWAY WILL
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FOREGO, AT LEAST DURING 1975, THE RIGHT TO ARREST AND TRY ZONE VIOLATORS. AS DEMANDED BY ALL AFFECTED COUNTRIES, THE ZONES WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO NORWAY'S PLANS TO INTRODUCE A 50-MILE LIMIT IN 1975.
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